

Appl. No. 09/883,461

Amdt. dated September 8, 2003

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of September 15, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A method for applying drywall mud to drywall tape ~~allowing for lengthy stoppages in a drywall application process comprises~~ includes threading the drywall tape through mud in a container. When the drywall process is interrupted, a strip of material longer than the distance across the container is attached to ~~at least one surface of~~ the drywall tape between the roll and the container. The strip of material is ~~substantially longer than the distance across the container and~~ has a tensile strength substantially unaffected by prolonged exposure to drywall mud. The drywall tape with attached material is drawn through the container until both ends of the strip of material extend outside the container on opposite sides thereof. The container is sealed and ~~the apparatus, with tape still threaded through the container may now be left for a prolonged period of time. When it is desired to~~ To re-commence the drywall process, the drywall tape and applied material is drawn through the slots until the material exits the container and is torn off and discarded, leaving a free end of drywall tape outside the container ~~available for grasping and pulling more drywall tape.~~ The material is conveniently adhesive tape. ~~An apparatus for conveniently applying mud to drywall tape is also provided.~~

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 on Page 6 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph:

While the invention is claimed in the concluding portions hereof, preferred embodiments are provided in the accompanying detailed description which may be best understood in conjunction with the accompanying diagrams where like parts in each of the several diagrams are labeled with like numbers, and where:

Fig. 1 is a side view of an apparatus for applying mud to drywall tape;]

Fig. 2 is a top view of the apparatus of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top view showing a piece of plastic film in place to wrap around a section of drywall tape;

Fig. 3A is a side view showing the piece of plastic film of Fig. 3 wrapped around the section of drywall tape;

Figs. 4 - 4B are side views of the apparatus of Fig.1 showing the operation thereof;

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Fig. 5 is a top view of a piece of adhesive tape applied to a length of drywall tape;

Fig. 6 is a side view of a slot in a container and a strip of drywall tape and attached plastic adhesive strip;

Fig. 7 is an end view of the slot, a strip of drywall tape and attached plastic adhesive strip of Fig. 6.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 on page 10 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph:

The strip of material may be plastic film 23 such as is illustrated in FIG. 3 and FIG. 3A, whose tensile strength is unaffected by exposure to mud 21 and is also impervious to moisture from mud 21. The plastic film 23 is attached to the drywall tape 22 by simply wrapping same around the drywall tape 22 so as to surround a portion of drywall tape 22 and prevent moisture from the mud 21 contacting the portion of drywall tape 22. The seam 23s may be sealed with glue or tape. This method prevents deterioration of the drywall tape 22 and allows same to remain in the mud 21 for prolonged periods and pulled through the container 5 at a later time.

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

None.